

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 EB-08 SP-02
TRSE-00 L-03 /078 W
-----170527Z 066319 /14

R 161913Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1628
INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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PASS STR

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN, UK, US
SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTION TO STRAUSS APPOINTMENT AS STR

1. THERE HAS BEEN AN ABSENCE OF OFFICIAL REACTION THUS
FAR TO STRAUSS' NOMINATION TO BE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, ESSENTIALLY BECAUSE NO UK OFFICIALS KNOW HIM OR
WHERE HE STANDS SUBSTANTIVELY. THE PERSONAL COMMENTS WE
HAVE HEARD FROM OFFICIALS ARE ALL POSITIVE AND CAUTIOUSLY
ENTHUSIASTIC. THE GENERAL VIEW IS THAT IT IS A GOOD
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THING THAT SOMEONE HAS FINALLY BEEN CHOSEN, IT IS DESIRABLE TO HAVE A MAN OF OBVIOUS STATURE AND HIGH STANDING
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, IT WILL BE USEFUL TO HAVE A POLITICIAN WITH WHOM EUROPEAN POLITICIANS CAN COMMUNICATE,
AND, FINALLY, IT IS NO REAL DRAWBACK TO HAVE A MAN WHO
LACKS TRADE EXPERIENCE.

2. PRESS REACTION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY BRIEF AND STRAIGHT FORWARD SO FAR EXCEPT FOR A FEATURE STORY IN THIS MORNING'S TIMES (MARCH 16) BY FRANK VOGEL HEADLINED "TOUGH TEXAN HEADING FOR TRADE TALKS." VOGEL, CLAIMING TO HAVE THE FIRST INTERVIEW AFTER NEWS OF THE APPOINTMENT LEAKED, LABELED STRAUSS A "COLORFUL AND POWERFUL" MAN WHO WILL SPEAK FORCEFULLY AND NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT "WINNING POPULARITY CONTESTS." FOLLOWING ARE A FEW KEY PASSAGES FROM THE STORY.

(A) HIS EXTENSIVE POLITICAL CONTACTS AND HIS ABILITY TO WIN CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRADE POLICIES APPEAR TO BE KEY REASONS FOR HIS APPOINTMENT.

(B) STRAUSS: "I DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF A PROTECTIONIST AND I SUPPOSE MY INSTINCTS ARE THOSE OF A FREE TRADER ... BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY FIXED POSITIONS RIGHT NOW ... I AM A NEGOTIATOR. IT WAS THE CHIEF STRENGTH I BROUGHT TO MY POLITICAL LIFE."

(C) STRAUSS IS DISARMINGLY CANDID AND SAYS BLUNTLY THAT HIS CANDOR MAY AT FIRST BE ONE OF HIS BIGGEST PROBLEMS IN NEGOTIATING WITH EUROPEANS.

(D) HE ADMITS THAT AT PRESENT HE KNOWS NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT INTERNATIONAL TRADE. BUT HE DOES NOT REGARD THIS AS A DISADVANTAGE. HE WANTS TO MAINTAIN A CERTAIN MYSTIQUE ABOUT HIMSELF FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

(E) THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS SAID FORCEFULLY THAT IT FULLY INTENDS TO ACCELERATE THE PACE OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. MR. STRAUSS SEEMS JUST THE DYNAMIC AND ENERGETIC PERSON NEEDED FOR THIS.

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SPIERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3088846
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INITIAL REACTION TO STRAUSS APPOINTMENT AS STR
TAGS: ETRD, UK, US, MTN, (STRAUSS)
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Type: TE
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